

## ABSTRACT

### METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING DIGITAL DATA

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Data copying or playback is controlled, which does not require an additional information detector in a drive that has severe constraints on its cost and/or space.

10 For recording control digital data, any additional information electronically embedded therein is detected and, if such additional information is detected, then access control of the digital data is performed using the additional information. Next, the digital data is

15 scrambled for recording the same onto a medium. Note that the term "electronically embedded additional information" means herein such additional information that is embedded through a transformation of the data itself. Also, the term "access control" means herein to determine whether copying/recording of the digital data

20 is to be stopped or continued. Depending on the content of the additional information, the term "access control" also embraces embedding control information such as a copy mark into the digital data. For the playback

25 control, the scrambled digital data is descrambled, thereby to detect any electronically embedded additional information and copy mark from the descrambled digital data. Using such detected information, playback control of the digital data is performed.

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